

Appendix table 7-20.

Support for Federal funding of basic scientific research^a, by level of Index of Scientific Promise, Index of Scientific Reservation, and by education: 2001
(Percentages)

Level of index and level of education	Disagree	Unsure	Agree	Sample size (number)
Index of Scientific Promise^b				
All adults	16	3	81	1,569
Low	29	4	68	233
Moderate	15	3	82	1,107
High	6	1	93	229
Less than high school graduate	16	5	79	116
Low	29	6	65	20
Moderate	15	6	79	82
High	0	0	100	14
High school graduate	18	3	78	833
Low	33	3	64	140
Moderate	17	4	79	589
High	5	0	95	104
Baccalaureate and higher	9	1	90	610
Low	13	2	85	71
Moderate	8	1	91	430
High	9	5	86	109
Index of Scientific Reservation^c				
All adults	16	3	81	1,574
Low	7	1	91	197
Moderate	13	3	84	984
High	25	4	71	393
Less than high school graduate	16	5	79	116
Low	0	0	100	9
Moderate	14	5	81	49
High	20	6	74	58
High school graduate	18	3	79	834
Low	8	0	92	68
Moderate	14	3	83	511
High	30	4	67	255
Baccalaureate and higher	9	1	90	614
Low	8	4	88	119
Moderate	9	1	90	416
High	9	0	91	79

Low = 0–49; moderate = 50–74; high = 75–100

^aResponses are to the following question: Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the Federal Government—do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

^bThe Index of Scientific Promise includes responses to the following statements:

Now I would like to read you some statements like those you might find in a newspaper or magazine article. For each statement, please tell me if you generally agree or disagree. If you feel especially strongly about a statement, please tell me that you strongly agree or disagree.

—Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable.

—Most scientists want to work on things that will make life better for the average person.

—With the application of science and new technology, work will become more interesting.

—Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation.

^cThe Index of Scientific Reservation includes responses to the following statements:

Now I would like to read you some statements like those you might find in a newspaper or magazine article. For each statement, please tell me if you generally agree or disagree. If you feel especially strongly about a statement, please tell me that you strongly agree or strongly disagree.

—We depend too much on science and not enough on faith.

—It is not important for me to know about science in my daily life.

—Science makes our way of life change too fast.

NOTES: The Index of Scientific Promise and Index of Scientific Reservation are factor scores converted to a 0–100 scale. Factor analysis verified the existence of a two-factor structure. The lowest possible factor score (strong disagreement with all of the items) was set to 0, and the highest possible factor score (strong agreement with all of the items) was set to 100. All factor scores between the highest and the lowest were placed on the 0–100 scale accordingly. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding. A few respondents did not provide information about their highest level of education.

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, 2001.

See figure 7-7 in Volume 1.